

SERGEANT ANGELO L. LOZADA, JR.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to remember and honor Sergeant Angelo Lozada, Jr. of Nashua, NH for his service and supreme sacrifice for his country.

Angelo demonstrated a willingness and dedication to serve and defend his country by joining the United States Army. Just as many of America's heroes have taken up arms in the face of dire threats, Angelo dedicated himself to the defense of our ideals, values, freedoms, and way of life. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will live on forever among the many dedicated heroes this Nation has sent abroad to defend freedom.

Angelo felt the call to serve our Nation early, and dutifully joined the Reserves after he graduated from high school. He served for 6 years in the New Hampshire Army National Guard's Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 172nd Field Artillery Regiment before signing up for active duty on July 26, 2000. He was deployed to Iraq in 2003, where he served in Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, stationed out of Camp Hovey, Korea. Tragically, on April 16, 2005, Angelo made the ultimate sacrifice for this great Nation. He died of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Throughout his career, Angelo earned a series of accolades which testify to the dedication and devotion he held for his fellow soldiers, the Army, and his country. Angelo's hard work and dedication contributed greatly to his unit's successes and placed him among many of the great heroes and citizens that have paid the ultimate price for their country. Angelo was recognized posthumously for his courageous actions in Iraq by receiving the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and an Army Commendation Medal. He had also been recognized throughout his distinguished career by receiving the Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Weapons Qualification Badge, M-16 Expert. He was also a graduate of the Primary Leadership Development Course and was recently promoted to Sergeant in May of 2004.

Angelo was truly an exceptional soldier with more than 10 years of service and a father of three who had decided to reenlist after his tour of duty in Iraq. He leaves behind a family with a proud tradition of military service, including three brothers who served in the Army.

My condolences and prayers go out to Angelo's family, and I offer them my deepest sympathies and most heartfelt thanks for the service, sacrifice, and example of their soldier, Sgt Angelo Lozada, Jr. He was respected and admired by all those around him, and

continually performed above and beyond all expectations while in the United States Army. Because of his efforts, the liberty of this country is made more secure.

#### MORE OPPOSITION TO THE GUN INDUSTRY IMMUNITY BILL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, since the reintroduction of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, many law enforcement and community groups around the country have publicly stated their opposition to the bill. In Michigan alone, the bill is opposed by organizations including the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the League of Women Voters of Michigan, the Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence, and local chapters of the Million Mom March.

Law enforcement and community groups oppose the misnamed "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act" because it would significantly weaken the legal rights of gun violence victims. The bill would provide members of the gun industry with legal protections not enjoyed by other industries and deprive many gun violence victims with legitimate cases of their day in court.

Two former Directors of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms have added their voices to the already considerable and growing opposition to this bill. In a letter to Congress, former ATF Directors Stephen Higgins and Rex Davis state that the gun industry immunity legislation would threaten the ATF's ability to effectively enforce our Nation's gun laws. Specifically, they cite provisions in the bill that would likely block the ATF from pursuing administrative proceedings "to revoke a gun dealer's federal firearm license if the dealer supplies guns to criminals or other prohibited buyers" and "to prevent the importation of non-sporting firearms used frequently in crimes." Later in the letter, former Directors Higgins and Davis state:

We know from experience how important it is that ATF be able to enforce our nation's gun laws to prevent firearms from being obtained by terrorists, other criminals, and the gun traffickers who supply them. To protect our citizens from the scourge of gun violence Congress should be strengthening our laws and increasing ATF's resources and ability to enforce those laws. To handcuff ATF, as this bill does, will only serve to shield corrupt gun sellers, and facilitate criminals and terrorists who seek to wreak havoc with deadly weapons. To take such anti-law enforcement actions in the post-9/11 age, when we know that suspected terrorists are obtaining firearms, and may well seek them from irresponsible gun dealers, is nothing short of madness.

Combined, former Directors Higgins and Davis have more than two decades of experience in leading the ATF. We should recognize their extensive knowledge of gun violence issues and follow their advice. Instead of providing a single industry with broad immunity, we should be protecting the legal rights of

gun violence victims and enhancing the effectiveness of our law enforcement agencies.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of some of the law enforcement and community organizations opposing this legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### MICHIGAN ORGANIZATIONS

Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police  
League of Women Voters of Michigan  
Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence  
Detroit Million Mom March Chapter  
East Metro Detroit Million Mom March Chapter  
Mid-Michigan/Lansing Million Mom March Chapter  
Novi Million Mom March Chapter  
Southwest Michigan Million Mom March Chapter  
Washtenaw County MMM Chapter  
West Metro Detroit/Washtenaw County Million Mom March Chapter

#### NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

International Brotherhood of Police Officers  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
National Black Police Association  
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association

#### OTHER NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance for Justice  
American Association of School Psychologists  
American Association of Suicidology  
American Bar Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
American Humanist Association  
American Public Health Association  
Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence  
united with the Million Mom March  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Church Women United  
Coalition To Stop Gun Violence  
Common Cause  
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Leadership Team  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Equal Partners in Faith  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Hadassah The Women's Zionist Organization Of America  
HELP Network  
League of Women Voters of the U.S.  
Legal Community Against Violence  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Women's Organization  
National Research Center for Women & Families  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Public Citizen  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
States United to Prevent Gun Violence  
The American Jewish Committee  
The Ms. Foundation for Women  
The Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE)  
The United States Conference of Mayors  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Veteran Feminists of America  
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. McCain. Mr. President, when the Senate debated this bill a few weeks

ago, I asked my colleagues a simple question. What is the purpose of an emergency appropriations bill? The purpose, it seems to me, is to fund unexpected priorities—emergencies that simply cannot wait for the normal budget process. The conference report largely fulfills that purpose. It covers unexpected costs associated with the war on terror, tsunami relief, and national security priorities, including funding for our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. I strongly support funding in these areas.

But that is not all it does, Mr. President. This conference report has also served as a magnet for non-emergency spending and includes a host of earmarks. Let me be clear: I support this conference report because of the critical resources it provides for our troops and for our other emergency priorities, including tsunami relief. But at the same time I am deeply disturbed that the Congress isn't exhibiting restraint. Knowing that this conference report was a "must pass" piece of legislation, we have once again loaded it with unrelated provisions. Let me remind my colleagues that we are experiencing enormous budget deficits. At some point, we will have to embrace some degree of fiscal responsibility.

We should start with this emergency supplemental. The scope of emergency appropriations has traditionally been limited, and for good reason. We already have a proper budget and appropriations process. We don't need another. The proper process is supposed to allow Congress to meet Federal responsibilities while closely monitoring the effect our spending has on the budget deficit and the national debt. But appropriations that are designated as "emergency" do not count against the discretionary budget ceilings that we ourselves set. They add to costs incurred by the government and cause the current budget deficit to grow. With enactment of this measure, supplemental military spending alone since September 11, 2001, will top \$200 billion. I am not questioning funding the war on terror; but I am questioning the unnecessary add-ons.

With respect to the substance of this conference report, I am pleased that it will provide the necessary resources to our troops as well as additional funds for our homeland security needs. It increases veterans benefit levels and expands eligibility, and provides higher benefits to family members of those killed in military service. This foreign affairs provisions of the conference report are remarkably, and commendably, free of pork. As one who supports ensuring that every taxpayer dollar counts, I commend my colleagues for their restraint in this area while meeting the President's request for funding for the victims of the South East Asian tsunami.

Unfortunately, this conference report also includes some unnecessary provisions, examples of which I will give in just a moment. I fully recognize that it

isn't only the fault of the appropriators that the Congress has been forced into this new pattern of adopting emergency appropriations measures. Overly partisan politics has largely prevented us from following the regular legislative order, and that fact must change.

I would ask my colleagues whether they believe the following examples—just a select few from this conference report—constitute "emergency spending": \$2,000,000 to upgrade the chemistry laboratories at Drew University in New Jersey. According to its website, Drew University has a total enrollment of 2,600 students, operates with a \$200,000,000 endowment, and draws more National Merit Scholars than many other top liberal arts colleges in the nation. A prestigious institution indeed, but I see no way in which funding for its chemistry labs is a critical national spending emergency; \$500,000 for the Oral History of the Negotiated Settlement project at the University of Nevada-Reno; \$2,000,000 to continue funding for the Southeast Regional Cooling, Heating and Power and Biofuel Application Center in Mississippi; \$4,000,000 to pay-off debt at the Fire Sciences Academy in Elko, Nevada; and \$2,000,000 for the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences in Michigan.

Additionally, notwithstanding Senate rules against legislating on an appropriations bill, the legislation before us today contains plenty of policy-related, non-appropriations language. For example: The conference report directs the Secretary of the Interior to allow oil and gas exploration underneath the Gulf Island National Seashore, a protected National Park in Mississippi. This changes current Federal policy disallowing such exploration; a line-item in the conference resolution blocks the EPA from revising how it collects fees for the registration of pesticides. For several years, similar language has been routinely added to VA-HUD/EPA appropriations legislation. Now this provision has found a new home in the emergency spending bill; it authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to study the viability of establishing a sanctuary for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow in the Rio Grande River; it directs the Army Corps of Engineers to complete the Indiana Harbor and Canal disposal project; and California lawmakers have seen to it that this bill provides funds for San Gabriel Basin restoration.

Mr. President, we simply must start making some very tough decisions around here if we are serious about improving our fiscal future. Let's be clear about what we are doing. The Government is running a deficit because it is spending more than it takes in. So each one of the earmarks in this bill, we are borrowing money—and saddling future generations of Americans with unnecessary debt. If we had no choice but to act in this way, this might be, a understandable, temporary method of budgeting. But the fact is that we do have a choice.

At a conference in February, 2005, David Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, said this:

If we continue on our present path, we'll see pressure for deep spending cuts or dramatic tax increases. GAO's long-term budget simulations paint a chilling picture. If we do nothing, by 2040 we may have to cut federal spending by more than half or raise federal taxes by more than two and a half times to balance the budget. Clearly, the status quo is both unsustainable and difficult choices are unavoidable. And the longer we wait, the more onerous our options will become and the less transition time we will have.

Is that really the kind of legacy we should leave to future generations of Americans?

Referring to our economic outlook, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before Congress that:

(T)he dimension of the challenge is enormous. The one certainty is that (the resolution of this situation will require difficult choices and that the future performance of the economy will depend on those choices. No changes will be easy, as they all will involve lowering claims on resources or raising financial obligations. It falls on the Congress to determine how best to address the competing claims.

It falls on the Congress, my friends. The head of the U.S. Government's chief watch-dog agency and the Nation's chief economist agree—we are in real trouble.

Dire predictions, and what are we doing about it? Are we restraining our spending? No, of course not. We are at it again, finding new and ever more creative ways to funnel money to the special interests. We have to face the facts. Congress cannot continue to spend taxpayer dollars on wasteful, unnecessary pork barrel projects or cater to wealthy corporate special interests any longer. The American people deserve better.

#### OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, when President Kennedy established Older Americans Month in 1963, he began an important tradition of designating a time for our country to honor older citizens for their many accomplishments and contributions to our Nation. Now, as we recognize May as "Older Americans Month," I welcome the opportunity to reflect on the contributions senior citizens have made in shaping our Nation and to reassert our commitment to enhancing the living standard of our senior community.

This year's theme is "Celebrate Long Term Living." Many seniors in Maryland exemplify that idea, continuing to lead vital, active lives throughout their "golden years." Bob Ray Perry Hall, from Hamilton, MD, who ran every day from April 4, 1967 until his 68th birthday on April 7, 2005, is one such example. Mr. Hall holds the longest consecutive running streak in the United States and the second longest record in the entire world, a remarkable accomplishment at any age. Ms. Evelyn Wright of Annapolis is another